

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 5 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 5 may be found at least at pages 7-13 of the specification and in Figs. 4-9. No new matter is added. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Williams in the December 1, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the title as not being descriptive. These objections are respectfully traversed.

By this amendment, the title has been amended to read: MOTOR MODULE HAVING A DEFORMABLE COMPONENT THAT ABSORBS TOLERANCES.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

II. Double Patenting Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 under nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-7 of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/572,654. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the double patenting rejection is a provisional rejection, the claims over which the present claims have been provisionally rejected have not yet issued as a patent, and Applicants will address the provisional double patenting rejection if and when the application, over which the claims are rejected, issues as a patent.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0050752 (Katsuzawa). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, in part, "a second contact for electrically connecting said internal conductor and said motor winding; wherein said second contact has a structure that is elastically deformable in accordance with a position of said terminal of said motor winding; and wherein the second contact is capable of absorbing a component tolerance at least due to its elastically deformable properties" (emphasis added).

Independent claim 5 recites, in part, "a second contact for electrically connecting said internal conductor and said motor winding; wherein said first contact has a structure for mating said internal conductor and said external wiring in a direction perpendicular to a motor rotational shaft, said motor winding is attached to said second contact in said rotation shaft direction, and wherein said second contact includes a plate-like fixed terminal formed to extend along an extending direction of said terminal of said motor winding, and electrically connected to said internal conductor, and a fixing member for fastening said terminal at the tip of said motor winding and said fixed terminal; and wherein the second contact is capable of absorbing a component tolerance at least due to having a through-hole that has a length sufficiently greater than the diameter of the fixing member to allow for translational movement within the through-hole" (emphasis added).

The Office Action cites Figs. 4a-4d and 5a-5e of Katsuzawa and asserts that Katsuzawa discloses all of the features of independent claims 1 and 5, as well as dependent claims 2-3 and 6-7.

Applicants respectfully submit that Figs. 4a-4d of Katsuzawa illustrate the lead connector 21. Paragraph [0035] of Katsuzawa discloses that "the lead connector 21 is

arranged so that the presser portion 22 is positioned below, i.e., more inside than, the conducting portion and the end of the lead 7 is inserted into the presser portion 22 from underside and fitted with the presser portion 22." In other words, paragraph [0035] of Katsuzawa discloses that the presser portion 22 clamps the lead 7 in order to hold the lead in place while the conducting portion is fastened to a power cable 70 by a screw 24. *See* Katsuzawa, paragraphs [0036]-[0037], and Fig. 2.

Katsuzawa does not expressly state that the presser portion is deformable. Furthermore, the dictionary defines "elastic" as easily resuming original shape after being stretched or expanded. The dictionary further defines "elastic" as meaning flexible. Katsuzawa's disclosure does not suggest that the lead connector 21 is flexible or elastic. Rather, the figures illustrate the lead connector 21 as being rigid and fixed to the power cable 70 by a screw or a nut and bolt. Consequently, Katsuzawa does not disclose any portion of the lead connector 21 being elastically deformable. No portion of the lead connector is deformable with respect to the positioning of the motor winding terminal.

Katsuzawa thus fails to disclose each and every element recited in independent claim 1.

Further, independent claim 5 recites "a motor winding having at its tip a plate-like terminal extending in a prescribed direction" and "a plate-like fixed terminal formed to extend along an extending direction of said terminal of said motor winding, and electrically connected to said internal conductor."

Katsuzawa fails to disclose both of the features identified above. Rather, Katsuzawa merely indicates that the leads 7 are associated with windings of respective phases of stator 2. Katsuzawa fails to disclose that the motor windings having a plate-like terminal extending in a prescribed direction at the motor windings tip. Moreover, Katsuzawa fails to disclose that the plate-like fixed terminal is formed to extend along an extending direction and connected

to an internal conductor. Additionally, the applied references fail to disclose the second contact is capable of absorbing a component tolerance at least due to having a through-hole that has a length sufficiently greater than the diameter of the fixing member to allow for translational movement within the through-hole.

Katsuzawa thus fails to disclose each and every element recited in independent claim 5.

Claims 2-3 and 6-7 variously depend from independent claims 1 and 5. Because the applied references fail to anticipate or render obvious the features recited in independent claims 1 and 5, dependent claims 2-3 and 6-7 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 5 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Katsuzawa in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0024749 (Kobayashi). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 4 and 8 variously depend from independent claim 1. Because the applied references fail to anticipate or render obvious the features recited in independent claim 1, dependent claims 4 and 8 are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Kobayashi fails to cure the deficiencies of Katsuzawa with respect to the second contact being elastically deformable in accordance with a position of the motor winding terminal. Kobayashi relates to a hybrid vehicle propulsion apparatus having a motor generator coupled directly to an output shaft. Although Kobayashi discloses several connectors used for various purposes, Kobayashi fails to suggest that there are any elasticity properties associated with these connectors. Further the objectives of

Kobayashi are to facilitate crankshaft rotation and prevent the engine from being affected by leakage currents and fluxes. We note that paragraph [0010] of Kobayashi states that Kobayashi intends to accomplish this by having properties "of relatively high rigidity."

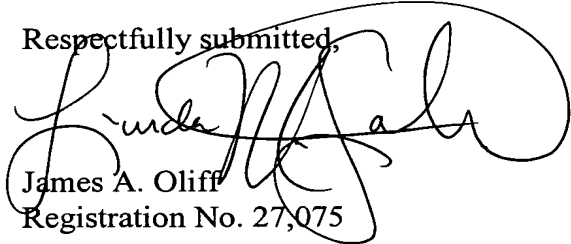
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Linda M. Saltiel
Registration No. 51,122

JAO:SZS/amt

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: December 17, 2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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